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30 April 1982

NIO/SP COMMENTS ON DRAFT OSWR STUDY,
"PROBABLE SOVIET VARIABLE CYCLE ENGINE TECHNOLOGY" (C)

1. A good study. One of its strong points is that--unlike many technical assessments--it presents a "tutorial" on the system or technology in question. In this case, the tutorial is found in the last paragraph on page 7, noting the differences between the types of engines at issue. However, this treatment needs expansion to aid the uninformed reader. Specifically, there should be an explicit discussion of the relative advantages of turbofan vs. turbojet engines, which a variable cycle engine is supposed to incorporate. In other words, for what flight conditions are turbojet and turbofan engines most suitable, and to what extent can a variable cycle engine be expected to match the optimum performance of each of these engine types?

2. A second area for improvement is the discussion of Kolosiev. It appears that most of the section beginning on page 11 could be eliminated or put in an annex. Why is it important for the reader to be led through the evidence on this individual? If the identity of Kolosiev is vital to an understanding of this development program, its importance should be explicitly stated at the beginning of this section.

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